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of his Essays into Latin. Both were children of the Renaissance, scornful of scholasticism, eager for scientific knowledge, and craving for a new secular synthesis. But Hobbes was in no sense a disciple, and he never used the inductive method.

Roaming over the wide spaces of philosophy and classical literature, he was in no hurry to write. To quote his own words, the extreme pleasure he took in study overcame all other appetites. He never married, and women play no part in his life. The chief literary product of these quiet years was a translation of Thucydides, whom he saluted as "the most politic historiographer that ever writ/* He confessed that there was much more diligence than elegance in his work, and Jowett had no great opinion of his skill. His purpose, he tells us in his autobiography, was *ut ineptiae democraticorum Atheniensium concivibus sjs patefierent*. The historian's matchless pictures of political confusion strengthened his conviction of the necessity of a strong ruler. Next to Thucydides among the Greeks he owed most to Aristotle, not to the *Politics*, which he disliked, but to the *Rhetoric*, of which he made a digest, and passages from which, as Dr. Leo Strauss has shown in parallel columns, are reproduced almost verbally in his writings. Later in life he described Pto as the best of the ancient philosophers, but no one was ever less of a Pto. A similar attempt to prove borrowings from the Stoics has been made by Dilthey in a memorable essay. But in no case was the debt very large. He always stood on his own legs.

The Grand Tour was an essential part of the education of young noblemen, and Hobbes profited by the custom. He accompanied his master to France, Germany, and Italy in 1610, the year of the murder of Henri IV, and he made two

longer journeys with young noblemen in 1629 and 1634—7. He studied the France of Richelieu at close quarters, and in Paris formed enduring friendships with Mersenne, the henchman of Descartes, Gassendi, the antagonist of the great philosopher, and other scholars. In Italy he visited Rome and Florence, where, like Milton, he made the acquaintance of Galileo of whom he spoke ever after with enthusiasm. He discovered Euclid at the age of forty, and his interest in geometry and the natural sciences was stimulated by these contacts. On returning home in 1637 he was ready to start on his ambitious scheme to unify the whole field of knowledge in a demonstrable system of philosophy. He possessed boundless self-confidence, and he believed things to be much